

JFK SHOCKER: OSWALD DIDN'T FIRE FATAL SHOT

Startling new evidence names 2nd assassin

GLOBE

Vol. 35 — No. 36 September 6, 1988 75¢

GLOBE EXCLUSIVE — The last

JACK RUBY

surviving witness breaks

WAS JFK's

silence after 25 years & reveals:

ASSASSIN

JACK RUBY shot President John F. Kennedy in a Mafia hit, then killed fellow assassin Lee Harvey Oswald to silence him, reveals Ruby's former lover — the only surviving witness to their fiendish plot.

"Jack Ruby and Lee Harvey Oswald knew each other," charges Esther Ann Mash, a former cocktail waitress at Ruby's Carousel Club in Dallas. "They were friends. They met at the club to discuss Kennedy's killing while I served them drinks. I know they plotted to kill President Kennedy."

Jack Ruby was the mystery man on the "grassy knoll," ahead and to the right of the presidential motorcade, claims Esther, 53, and he fired the lethal bullet that blew off the front part of the President's head. Esther's belief that Ruby fired from the grassy knoll at the same time Oswald blasted away from the book depository is supported by assassination expert Henry Hurt, author of Reasonable Doubt (Holt, Rinehart and Winston).

"Many accounts of the assassination say shots were fired from the grassy knoll area, and even Kennedy's original autopsy indicated bullets entered his body from two directions," he says.

He also points to the Abraham Zapruder film of the assassination that "clearly shows the shot that killed the President



Witness Esther Ann Mash: "Jack Ruby and Lee Harvey Oswald plotted to kill JFK"

came from the right front, the grassy knoll area."

Ruby's alibi at the time was that he was visiting the Dallas Morning News, along the motorcade route, at the time of the shooting.

But one reporter told the FBI that Ruby was "missed for a period of about 20 to 25 minutes" before reappearing shortly after the assassination.

HURT describes Esther as "the missing link in the conspiracy."

"I was never able to find anyone else whose claim that Oswald and Ruby knew each other held up when I checked into it," he told GLOBE.

Esther has lived on the run for 25 years, terrified to speak out for fear that

she'd become another name on the staggering list of people connected to the assassination who have died mysteriously.

But she no longer fears an assassin's bullet. "It doesn't matter if they kill me now," she told GLOBE in a gripping, exclusive interview at her humble mobile home in Fort Worth, Texas.

"I have a blood clot in my brain, and I've already lived longer than doctors said I would."

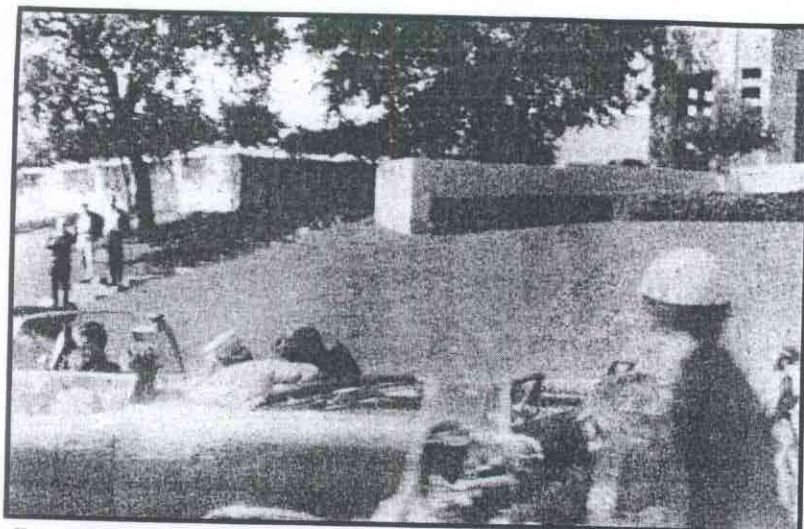
Nonetheless, her hands still shake as she talks about Ruby and Oswald.

They conspired with Mafia gangsters, apparently angered by the Kennedy administration's crackdown on organized crime, to kill "the only President I ever really liked," she says.

Esther met Ruby in the spring of 1962, while she was working double shifts at a pancake house near Love airport outside Dallas.

A mother of four, and separated from her husband, she jumped at his offer of a high-tipping waitressing job at his club, and later became his lover.

"I was always the one



— and slumps from bullets that sparked a 25-year controversy



about 10:30 that night. "They were all dark, swarthy men. They looked like gangsters out of a movie.

"There was another man, dressed real casual — he didn't look like he fit in with the rest of the group at all.

"There were seven all together. They talked until about one o'clock in the morning.

"Then the men in suits left. Jack went to his apartment behind the club. And the other guy stayed until closing watching the strippers. He couldn't take his eyes off them. That man was Lee Harvey Oswald.

"It was a serious meeting. I knew it had something to do with the Mafia because everyone in town in those days knew that Jack was part of the mob."

Ruby and Oswald continued to meet after that fateful first time, says Esther, who broke up with Ruby and left her job at

his club shortly before the assassination.

"After the President was shot — when I saw Oswald's arrest on TV, and then saw Ruby kill him — I knew who planned the assassination of the President," she adds.

"When I saw Oswald I couldn't believe my eyes. I said to myself: 'My God, that's the weird little man who was at that secret meeting with Jack and those Mafia types.'

"I saw that grin on Oswald's face on TV the day Jack shot him. He was smiling because Jack was his friend.

"I didn't want to be involved, no more than I already was. I didn't want to be questioned by anybody — not the police, not the FBI, not anybody. They never found me, either."

ESTHER and her children fled back to her estranged husband who was living in a small town in west Texas, then she went to Arizona for four years, then back to Texas.

She adds that Ruby, who died of cancer while serving a prison term for shooting Oswald, "was a pawn controlled by others.

"I might be the only one left who knows this awful secret. I just had to tell the truth — before I die."

— VALERIE JONES
and KEN HARRELL